

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 39, Number 4

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Thursday, December 11, 1975

REFERENDUM REJECTED FOR NOW

HOUSING RESOLUTION TO BE ACTED UPON THIS MONDAY

by Al Skolnik

"A referendum on the housing for the elderly project at this time would be premature." This was the reaction of city council at its Monday, December 8 meeting to a petition signed by 604 persons calling for a citizen vote on the subject. Instead, council decided to push its efforts to gather all the facts before making a final commitment to the project.

The vehicle for the assembling of the facts would be a resolution stating the council's preference for two alternate sites (Ridge Road or Hamilton Place) and directing the city manager to initiate applications for financial assistance and to make studies of the feasibility of the project and of the two sites.

Upon councilman Thomas White's motion, the resolution was amended to strengthen the exploratory nature of the resolution. Because of the resolution change, it had to be held over to the Monday, December 15 meeting for final approval.

Rehabilitation

The council also decided to consider at the December 15 meeting a suggestion by the city's Advisory Planning Board in Report #171 that it pursue the possibility of rehabilitation of existing housing units for the elderly. Up to now the city's thinking has been in terms of new construction on a new site.

Jack Queen of the audience felt that the renovating of 100 Greenbelt Homes, Inc. units through Federal section 8 funding would be more in character with the community than construction of a new building, especially if a high rise.

Councilman Charles Schwan disputed that renovation was a "feasible alternate." Others argued that only new construction could provide the physical amenities and centralized facilities that the aged require. Mayor Gil Weidenfeld suggested that full-scale discussion of this proposal be held over until the December 15 meeting.

WHAT GOES ON

Thurs., Dec. 11, 8 p.m. GHI Board Meeting, Hamilton Pl.
Fri., Dec. 12, 8 p.m. Duplicate Bridge Youth Center
Mon., Dec. 15, 8 p.m. City Council Meeting, Municipal Bldg.
Wed., Dec. 17, 8 p.m. GHI Special Membership Meeting, Center School
Thurs., Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. Board of Education Meeting (FDR) Upper Marlboro
7:30 p.m. North End PTA
8 p.m. GHI Board Meeting, Hamilton Place
Sat., Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m. Caroling, Youth Center

Seek Referendum

Proponents of the referendum argued that the elderly housing project was sufficiently important to be decided directly by the citizens and not by the vote of council, especially if city land or costs are involved. "We citizens represent the city," said Viola Keer, "not the five councilmen."

Those favoring a referendum also argued that the results of the informal election survey questionnaire were, at best, not representative of public sentiment and, at worst, were produced through a rigged question. The questionnaire had shown that 84% of the 682 persons answering the question had favored the elderly housing project.

"People are always in favor of a project," George Loutsch said, "until they learn of the cost. We need to know the facts." The council countered by stating that that is precisely the intent of the resolution - to gather the facts.

But some proponents of the referendum such as Mrs. Keer argued that enough facts have already been assembled and that a referendum should be held now before the city engages in the expenditure of any more time or money. Councilman Richard Pilski said he saw no conflict between adoption of the resolution and a referendum to be held later. Weidenfeld quoted the city attorney's opinion that there is no requirement for the city to hold a referendum on the resolution.

Loutsch also expressed concern that the project would provide a "free ride" for the elderly. Schwan explained that persons above a certain income limit would pay the full rental and that the rent subsidies would go only to those elderly of limited income.

Need for Project

Joseph Hanyock, one of the few persons at Monday's meeting to state outright opposition to the project, felt that there was no demonstrated need for the project in Greenbelt. "There is a world of difference," he said, "between what people want - what they would like to have - and what they need."

In addition, he felt that the pro-

(See HOUSING, page 8, col. 1)

AGENDA REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL Monday December 15, 1975 8:00 P.M.

I. ORGANIZATION

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Meditation
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
4. Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 8, 1975
5. Additions to Agenda by Councilmen and Manager

II. COMMUNICATIONS

6. Petitions and Requests
7. Administrative Reports
8. Committee Reports

III. OLD BUSINESS

9. An Ordinance to Appropriate \$2,500 from the Replacement Fund Out of Existing Replacement Reserves to Provide for the Purchase of a Static Roller, Said Appropriation to Supplement a \$9,000 Sum Appropriated by Ordinance Number 798 - Second Reading
10. A Resolution to Amend Resolution Number 313, "A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of Certain Goods and Services from Various Vendors, As Enumerated Herein, Not to Exceed an Aggregate Total Cost of \$43,800," by Re-Estimating the Total Estimated Cost of Motor Vehicle Fuel Purchases from Certain Vendors - Second Reading
11. A Resolution for the City to Proceed with the Undertaking of a Housing for the Elderly Project (As Amended) - Second Reading
- * 12. Advisory Planning Board Report No. 171 - Housing for the Elderly
- * 13. Park and Recreation Advisory Board Report 12/75 - Housing for the Elderly
14. Advisory Planning Board Report No. 169 - Special Exception No. 2991, Junk Yard and Modification of Parking Requirements
15. Advisory Planning Board Report No. 170 - Concept Plan - Golden Triangle
16. Letter from Mr. Kenneth Michael Re: Golden Triangle Property
17. Appointment to Boards
18. Greenbriar Pumping Station
19. Franklin D. Roosevelt High School

IV. NEW BUSINESS

20. Legislation - 1976
21. Meetings

V. MISCELLANEOUS

*NOTE: Item 12 and 13 to be considered with Item 11.

THIS IS A PRELIMINARY
AGENDA SUBJECT TO
CHANGE.

Volleyball

All men interested in playing volleyball are invited to join the game on Mon. evenings at 7 p.m. in the Greenbelt Elementary School gym.

FDR School Controversy Raises Many Concerns In Greenbelt

by Elaine Skolnik

"My big concern is to have FDR boundaries settled as soon as possible so that programming can begin," G. James Gholson, assistant superintendent who supervises 74 schools in the northern area of the county, told the News Review last week. Boundaries, however, are not the only problems at this time. The very nature of the \$11 million Franklin D. Roosevelt senior high school is still in doubt, and this issue must be resolved before any definitive boundaries can be drawn.

From the beginning FDR was planned as a comprehensive general academic high school similar to Parkdale and High Point. However, since October 30, various proposals by board members have been submitted envisioning the conversion of FDR into either (1) a full career-technology school, (2) a combination career-technology-general academic school, or (3) a combination advanced technical-general academic school.

December 18 Meeting

Coming up before the school board in Upper Marlboro on Thursday, December 18 (probably starting at 7:30 p.m.) is consideration of board member Nicholas Eny's latest resolution. This resolution pushes for establishing "no less than half" of the capacity of FDR as a Career Technology Center which would be open to all students in the county on a "first come-first-serve" basis "with the board providing transportation." The other portion of the school would be utilized as a "regular senior high school with established attendance areas." The resolution, though vague, appears to imply that students residing in the Greenbelt area would attend FDR.

Golato Proposal

Board member A. James Golato, also favoring a scheme for a dual purpose FDR, has stated that he would not vote for Eny's resolution unless it were amended to incorporate a system where half the student body would be enrolled in the general academic high school program while the other half - an advanced technology center - would draw students voluntarily into a program specializing in pre-college technical courses, such as math, science and electronics.

The advantage of this proposal, he said, is that it would satisfy Greenbelt's desire to have all its students attending FDR together. At the same time, it would hopefully help to ease the problem of Bowie residents who have made it clear that they would prefer to have their students remain at the overcrowded Bowie high school. At present, Bowie high school is almost 500 over its present capacity. It is Golato's hope that FDR as an advanced technology center would draw on a voluntary basis some Bowie students, thus helping to relieve the overcrowding which led the school board staff to recommend that 333 Bowie students be transferred to DuVal and 230 to Largo.

Board member Lesley Kreimer felt that Golato's advanced technology courses would be a desirable component of the school, which she views as a comprehensive high school. FDR, she said, should (1) offer programs that will utilize to the maximum the school's unique features, such as the full scale theatre-auditorium and other design innovations, and (2) meet the interests of the students in attendance.

Eny's Proposal

According to Eny, the initial proposal of October 30, which was also co-sponsored by board members Sue Mills, Kathleen Barker, and Norman Saunders related to a career-technology program offering courses in the construction trades, electronics, cosmetology, etc. Interpretation of his December 1 proposal, which requires staff input within 60 days, varies. It is

expected that the staff will come up with several alternatives with respect to the school's concept and boundaries.

Eny's latest resolution also calls for the closing of Fairmont Heights as a senior high school offering regular academic and/or vocational programs and its reopening as a senior high school for music and the performing arts. This move will be controversial since similar proposals in the past were rejected after much public controversy.

Greenbelt Concerns

Greenbelt civic leaders have expressed concern that any drastic change in FDR's concept at this time could result in serious delays in the opening of the school and could produce serious problems in programming, scheduling, and staffing. Moreover, there is concern that a dual purpose FDR school would shortchange Greenbelt students in that the school would not be able to provide a full-scale academic curriculum.

LATE FLASH

Come tonight to council chambers at 8 p.m. to prepare for the December 18 School Board meeting on FDR.

School officials have pointed out that scheduling and programming for the 1976-77 school year have begun or will begin in earnest in January. They also look to the opening of FDR to alleviate overcrowding at high schools and to achieve the goal of 90% of pupil capacity. For example, Parkdale, which has a pupil capacity of 2,365, had a student population of 2,479 in September 1975. With the opening of FDR in September, Parkdale will open with 2,125 students. If Fairmont Heights is closed in September as envisioned by the Eny resolution, it would adversely affect this new criteria and almost offset any enrollment reductions in the county's high schools.

Mrs. Kreimer also has noted the possibility that the Eny proposal would require some renovation of FDR. The availability of such funds, she asserted, appears to be non-existent since the State drastically cut all recently approved construction and renovation projects.

In addition to questions of funding there is the matter of whether or not the State Department of Education would be required to approve any change in the FDR concept. If necessary, the process would undoubtedly further add to the delay.

Other questions raised: (1) Would a career-technology program at FDR duplicate those offered at Bladensburg, Crossland, Gwynn Park and Laurel? Crossland, for example, has a combination school - 38% of the student body in the Industrial Trades Center and 62% in general academic studies. (2) Will there be additional transportation costs? (3) Will the career-technology portion of FDR serve grades 9 through 12 and the general academic grades 10 to 12? (4) Will public hearings be required on any change in concept in addition to the one on boundaries?

TWIN PINES SAVINGS & LOAN ASSN. will reconvene the SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING adjourned from January 1975 on Wed., December 17 at 8 p.m. at Twin Pines. A progress report on members' votes on the Articles of Amendment will be given.

Attention: GHI Members

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1975

8:00 P.M.

GREENBELT CENTER SCHOOL

All members are urged to attend this important membership meeting.

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Half A High School?

Greenbelters again have an opportunity to vitally affect school board decisions with respect to the Franklin D. Roosevelt senior high school which is scheduled to open in Sept. 1976. The board is wrestling with two questions: from which communities will students be drawn for the new school and to what extent will FDR be a dual purpose school and depart from its original concept as a comprehensive (general academic) school. The latest proposal receiving much support on the school board is to allocate no less than half the school's capacity for a career technology (trades technician) center.

The two questions are interrelated. For even if all Greenbelt area students are assigned to FDR, the establishment of FDR as a dual purpose school could shortchange these students in that the school might not be able to provide a full-scale academic curriculum. Just as seriously, any attempts to convert the school into a career technology center at this time is bound to cause disruption, delay, confusion and the need for additional funding. The changes in programming, scheduling, and staffing required by the opening of a new school takes months to process and implement. Other senior high schools in the county would be affected by such changes.

It is a fact that interested, knowledgeable and well organized citizens can have great impact on a political body. This means attending special meetings such as the one held last night with Greenbelt's representative on the school board, Lesley Kreimer; attending the next school board meeting in Upper Marlboro on December 18 at 7:30 p.m.; and attending public hearings on FDR not yet scheduled, but expected in January.

We urge Greenbelters to discuss the issues, question the proposals and participate in the decision making process. The time is now, not after it is too late.

Man Killed in SHL

Greenbelt's first homicide in 22 years occurred December 4 in Springhill Lake. Michael Daitutolo, 39, of Ellicott City, was hit by a shotgun blast in the parking lot of the 3900 block of Edmonston Rd. He had been living temporarily with friends in Springhill Lake. Investigation revealed a suspect, Don Charles Lefebvre, 49, of Crofton. Following negotiations with his attorney, Lefebvre surrendered himself to the police and was charged with first degree homicide by Det. Cpl. Smith. The last homicide to occur in the city was in April, 1953.

Christmas Tree Sale

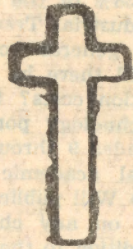
Again this year, Cub Scout Pack 202, Boy Scout Troop 1746 and the Boys and Girls Club are selling Christmas trees on the grounds next to the swimming pool. The hours are from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., starting Thursday, December 11.

Choirs Sing at Parkdale

A "Winter Festival of Music" will be presented by Parkdale's Choir Association on Fri., Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Under the direction of Dale K. Nonnemacher, the choralettes, the handbell choir and the concert choir will perform "Twas the Night Before Christmas," "Silent Night," "White Christmas" and other holiday music. Tickets will be sold at the door; senior citizens and pre-schoolers will be admitted free.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church



6905 Greenbelt Rd.

Worship Services

8:30 and 11:15 A.M.

Sunday School 9:50 A.M.

Weekday Nursery School

9:00 - 11:30 A.M.

Phone 345-5111

Edward H. Birner, Pastor

Golden Triangle Plan Critiqued

The Golden Triangle will again be in the news this week as city council considers a proposal by the developer at its Monday, December 15 meeting. The council will have before it the city's Advisory Planning Board Report #170 which comments on the plans for the Triangle's development.

The proposal calls for the already commercially-zoned 57-acre tract bounded by the Capital Beltway, Greenbelt Road, and Kenilworth Ave. to be divided as follows:

- 29.6 acres New and Used Car Dealerships
- 3.6 acres Motel
- 12.7 acres Offices (270,000 sq. ft.)
- 0.4 acres Gas station
- 4.8 acres Dinner theater, Pool, Tennis

remainder Pepco, streets, etc. The car dealerships would be located at the southern base of the triangle, with the office buildings located toward the apex of the triangle.

APB was pleased to note that the proposal embodies some of the suggestions previously made by APB and the council. Especially noted were that the office space proposed is limited to a building of only four floors and that the 270,000 square feet proposed is less than the 450,000 square feet ceiling established by the county planning board.

APB was disappointed that no convention facilities were being considered in connection with the motel, and that the entertainment and commercial recreation facilities being proposed were limited. It was also concerned that the amount of land devoted to the automobile dealerships was excessive, and opposed any used car dealerships.

APB felt that some commercial establishments should be proposed for the Triangle. It also recommended that the right-of-way shown on the plan to serve as access to the city-owned parkland (Indian Springs) at the north of the Triangle be relocated to the northwest corner of the city's land.

Also coming up at the December 15 meeting is a request for a special exception for construction of a junk yard on property located outside the corporate limits of the city adjacent to the B & O railroad tracks. APB in report #169 noted that the use proposed does not appear to be detrimental to the surrounding neighborhood, and took no position on the request. However, it noted that a preferred location for the MERO station is in the vicinity of this property and did not want its report to be construed as a change in the city's position on METRO.

Greenbelters Hurt by Car

Several Greenbelt young people were victims of an automobile accident last month coming home from Parkdale High School where they performed in "Our Town." When they were making a left turn in the intersection of Kenilworth Ave. and the Westchester apartment, their car was hit by another car.

Taken to Doctor's Hospital in Lanham, Greenbelt Rob Henry was at first in intensive care. He is still in traction. Also hurt but not so seriously were Peggy Pacl and Bill Wheatly.

North End PTA

North End PTA will have its next meeting Dec. 18. The program will be seasonal songs performed by the students. The meeting will start at 8 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., the hospitality committee will offer refreshments.

Townsend - Yilmaz

Mr and Mrs. George Townsend, announce the marriage of their daughter, Belinda to Fethi Yilmaz. The marriage ceremony was performed on December 6, at the Greenbelt Community Church by the Rev. Harry Taylor.

GREENBELT TRANSMISSIONS

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CHRISTMAS DANCE

AT THE GREENBELT FIRE DEPT.

Sat., Dec. 20, 1975

8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

\$3 Single

\$5 Couple

50c for 12 oz. Beer

For Tickets call firehouse 345-7000

Holiday Mail Service

From Dec. 10-19 (weekdays only) the Post Office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Only stamps and parcels will be handled between 5 and 6 p.m. On Sat., Dec. 13 and Dec. 20, Post Office hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The normal schedule will resume on Mon., Dec. 22.

On Tues., and Wed., Dec. 22-24, all post offices will be open for normal window and lock box services. On Christmas Day all offices will be closed. However, special delivery and collection services will be provided.

"Although most of the suggested mailing dates for domestic holiday mail have passed," Postmaster Harman said, "all cards, gifts and other holiday mail deposited in accordance with our local standards and bearing ZIP Codes should be delivered by Christmas Eve.

INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT

Parkdale High School's instrumental department will present a "Winter Holiday Concert" Tues., Dec. 16 at 8 p.m. The concert will be held in the school's multipurpose room. There is a fee, however, pre-schoolers and senior citizens will be admitted free.

Stern's

SHOE REPAIR

While U Wait
DISCOUNT PRICES

Beltway Plaza

around the corner Hanover Shoes

Meltonian Creams & Sprays
474-9288 M-F 10-9 Sat. 'til 6

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Mowatt Memorial 40 Ridge Rd., Greenbelt, Md. 474-9410)

Church School 9:30 A.M. (For ALL Ages)

Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.

Sermon: "The Road to Bethlehem"

Nursery Care for Infants through Kindergarten

Rev. Clifton D. Cunningham (474-3381 474-9410)

Take time to laugh . . .

Take time for your family . . .

Take time to read . . .

Take time to say "thank you", also

Take time to worship God.

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH
474-4212

Bible Study for all ages (Sun)

9:45 am

Sunday Worship

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

Mid-week Service (Wed)

7:30 pm

For bus transportation, call church office 8:30-12:30 weekdays

Greenbelt Baptist Church

will present its Christmas music program

Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. "Rejoice, O Earth" by Joe E. Parks will be directed by Mr. Frank Helms, Choir Director and Mr. Gregg Alexander, Pianist. The public is invited to attend.

The church is located at Crescent and Greenhill Roads.

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH

(United Church of Christ)

Hillside and Crescent Roads - Phone 474-6171 (mornings)

Sun., - 11 a.m. Worship Service and Sunday School

Infant Care at 2-B Hillside

Tues., - 7 p.m. - Advent Bible Study Course

Rev. Harry Taylor and Rev. Sherry Taylor, Ministers

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	Monthly Payment	Total Interest	Monthly Payment	Total Interest
\$1,500	\$68.94	\$154.56	\$48.12	\$232.32
\$2,000	91.92	206.08	64.16	309.76
\$2,500	114.90	257.60	80.20	387.20
\$3,000	137.88	309.12	96.24	464.64

Monthly payments include principal and interest (.8 of 1% per month on the unpaid balance - 9.6% annual rate), plus life insurance for eligible borrowers at no additional cost.

GREENBELT FEDERAL

CREDIT UNION

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Greenbelt, Md. 20770

Phone: 474-5900

Hours: Daily: 9-3

Saturdays: 9-1

Friday evening 7-9

COME IN AND GET YOUR FREE
BICENTENNIAL APPOINTMENT CALENDAR

Letters to the Editor

Another Version

The residents of Greenbelt should wear mourning bands. On the night of 8 Dec 75, the democratic process in this city died a sudden death at the city council meeting. HEIL!

Five men, in office by default, deemed the petition of over 600 residents "premature" and refused to grant the request for voice in the use of their land, whether they want to become developers and landlords.

Our city officials refer to 576 unsigned, unsupervised questionnaires as "overwhelming support" of the public housing project, but refused over 600 residents who signed the petition to referendum.

Is the proposed housing project going to be a surprise Christmas package similar to the 23 Dec 1968 GHI decision to proceed with the townhouse construction? Then Board President Charles Schwan steamrollered that through just as now City Councilman Charles Schwan is trying to ram this housing project down the public throat.

Looks like we need 600 more signatures to convince the would-be dictators that the people WILL be heard, if not in a referendum, at least at the next city election. Veterans have long memories.

Viola Keer

Still Another Version

On Dec. 8 I attended a city council meeting for the first time in several years. WOW, SHOCK!

... When the housing for the elderly resolution was introduced, the Mayor permitted each person, who so wished, to speak, in turn. The gentleman who had stated in the News Review that the project would be federally-funded, didn't explain this to council, at all; in fact, he didn't mention it when he spoke.

The rudeness displayed at the meeting would not be tolerated from children; yet, some people persisted in making crude remarks each time anyone spoke in favor of the referendum. One person even said, "shut up", to a gentleman who had been recognized by the chair. A member of council was, consistently, rude to the speakers he disfavored.

The petition for referendum, with over 600 signatures was treated very lightly by council. One council member, after rapidly surveying the many scrawled signatures, declared that he knew many of these people and knew they would vote for the housing. (such clairvoyance). So, why is he worried? ...

It was also suggested by council that the signees might not be registered to vote. However, no one questioned the people who spoke nor those who phoned the mayor, prior to the meeting, to determine if they were registered.

Though many people questioned council to see if a need for the project had been, or would be, determined, the question was evaded. As with the petition, itself, they said it was "premature." When a half dozen people circulate a petition for three (3) weeks and get over 600 signatures the council should heed the "handwriting on the wall."

Council should remember that they were elected because of a lack of competition, rather than on their merits. Let the council take heed.

Margaret D. Zanin

This Is the Time

The senior citizen housing proposal seems to be a great way to repay the seniors for the many contributions they have made to the life of this community.

The Greenbelt senior citizens are surely deserving of good and proper housing and this is a grand time of the year to support it.

Marge Feeney

Win A Turkey

Greenbelt Center School PTA is holding a turkey raffle. The lucky winner will receive, in time for a Christmas feast, a 20 lb. turkey with all the trimmings. The drawing is to be held on Dec. 19. Tickets may be purchased at the Greenbelt Shopping Center Mall on Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and again on Dec. 15-18 from 3 - 5 p.m. Parents wishing to sell tickets should contact Mrs. Irene Szafran - 474-8168.

A Reply To Mr. Hogensen

My first reaction to Mr. Hogensen's diatribe was: Is he butting up the board to get ready to sell, or has he put his sights on a lucrative heating or mangel position?

After lambasting every department for inefficiency, especially management, sales and payroll, Mr. Hogensen zeros in on "Eunice Coxon and crew". A crew is usually a limited number, but in our case if a vote were taken today of the entire membership, board and management would realize the angry temper of the membership.

As for the motion (on the capital improvement program) not being spelled out in the petition, we asked for a vote, which implies a motion. Let me remind Mr. Hogensen that it was the board and Mr. Ginsberg who ruled against the motion. If it becomes necessary that the members have to engage their own legal talent to interpret what our board and management says and what they mean, it is high time for them to remove that board for their own protection.

Mr. Hogensen, a newcomer to G.H.I., does not want to consider the past 10 years. But the past reflects the present and unless he takes the time to study cause and effect of our present situation, he would not so glibly accept the carrot so temptingly held before the donkey's nose.

Based on past performances, I cannot give a vote of confidence to this board and management to borrow on nothing but a promise.

Martha Hutzler

Cash or Credit

We have a group of GHI members who are consistently ANTI. Whatever the board is for, they are against. The latest sin of the board has been to propose a budget of just under a 10% increase in operating costs that INCLUDES a program to make critically important repairs to our houses, which would be financed through a large bank loan.

This is the method most of us use in making big purchases — our cars, new refrigerators, all sorts of things. We pay interest, but this interest is the price for getting the use of what we purchase before we have scraped enough together to pay for it.

Now this group is opposed to the board proposals and has demanded an expensive special membership meeting (while insisting they want to keep costs down) because they say they want to pay for the improvement program with cash, not credit.

I believe we should be grateful to the Audit Committee for taking the time to determine that payment for improvements will increase our monthly charges by about 30% next year if we pay cash on the line instead of borrowing. I am looking forward to seeing the Anti's all vote for this increase. Clearly, it is what they want.

Since I am at the peak of my earning powers I am sure I could personally stand a 30% increase, but I would rather think of our members who are on retirement incomes, who might be young with families to pay for, who may have other things to do with their money than pay cash when, as a large, well-managed corporation we have a good credit line and can borrow. I hope all others who are opposed to the 30% increase will come to the meeting and exercise their right to choose — cash or credit. Any interest we will pay will be income tax deductible.

Katherine Keene

Greenbelt's Library

The library will sponsor a program of Winter Holiday Stories which will include the film "Velveeten Rabbit" for children ages 6-12 on Mon. Dec. 15, from 7-9 pm in the Meeting Room. The film tells the story of the friendship and love which grow between a boy and his dirty, worn out, but very "real" toy rabbit.

The Drop-In Story Program for

Let's Work Together

Last week's News Review contained a letter criticizing the inclusion of \$42,597 in the capital improvements loan for repair of the ray rotary burners. Fairness demands clarification on that point.

When the Maintenance Committee brought in their report recommending the beginning of the change-over to hot water in the Laurel Hill steam plant they recommended that the entire cost of this program be added to the capital improvement program. It was the board's original intention to use the remaining GNMA money to replace these burners. I opposed this rather vigorously when it was being discussed. My reasons for doing so were these: when we originally took the GNMA deferral with the idea of using the money to update our heating system I naively assumed that this meant that our very inefficient heating system in the north end would be replaced.

I was shocked to discover that this was not to be the case. All of this money has been spent on other undoubtedly needed programs in the south end of town while we still have our highly inefficient plants. When it was suggested that this final \$40,000 (all the rest of the GNMA money has been appropriated) was to be spent repairing heating plants that are so inefficient and that will eventually have to be replaced, this seemed to me a great inequity and I opposed it.

I still think that it is only fairness and justice that at least this small percentage of the GNMA money should be used in the north end. But, if blame is to accrue for the repair of the burners being in the capital gains program, I certainly should share the blame because my opposition probably influenced the Board to some extent.

Along with a lot of other people I would have preferred to see a long range program for the renovation of our homes brought to us by the board with a recommendation for perhaps a much larger loan. But most of the things that are being recommended would have to be in a long range program and so can well fit in to future plans. It is much better to carry out the needed renovation by bits and pieces than it is not to do the work at all.

It is high time that we stop our petty carping and try to work together. We often speak of ourselves as a cooperative and it is time that we remember what that word means — that we must all work together to make it work. If we don't agree with the plans of the board, we should suggest constructive alternatives, but we should not let our disagreements overshadow the necessity for all of us to work together doing the things that need to be done, with the prime objective of making our community an even better place.

Margaret Hogensen

Kudos For Police

Because of the criticism of some Greenbelters concerning the police department, I wish to comment on their behalf.

On Thanksgiving Day my apartment was broken into and some things of particular value to me were stolen. I reported it to the police who responded immediately. The officer was very courteous and efficient as was the whole department. By six in the evening of the following day all of the items stolen were returned to me, including some I had not even missed.

I consider this excellent performance. Greenbelt is lucky to have this type of police protection.

Florence Bryan

children ages 3-5 years old will feature holiday stories and songs. It will be held Thurs., Dec. 18, at 2 p.m. in the Children's Program Room.

For young adults there will be an informal rap session on Sat., Dec. 20, at 1:30 p.m. For details call 345-5800.

Questions Answered

The petition for a special membership meeting that was presented by some GHI members raises two questions, (1) is the petition in proper form? (2), if in proper form, may the membership take decisive action on it?

Concerning the first, the petition is not in proper form. It fails to state a motion. The bylaws are as precise as they can be on this. A petition for a special meeting "shall state the motion or motions to be acted upon for which the meeting is to be called."

The second question — may the membership act — is much more important.

Every GHI member has a contract with the corporation. The member agrees to do certain things. So does the corporation. Among others, GHI agrees to maintain and heat the member's home. To fulfill these and other contractual obligations, the laws of the State of Maryland and the GHI bylaws require that the board of directors manage the affairs of the corporation. To this end, the board may borrow money if it determines that it must do so to maintain and safeguard the homes and property of members. The board and only the board may make this judgment. Neither the law nor the bylaws permit the membership to overrule the board.

For any reason, including repayment of a loan, should members operating payments be increased by 10% or more, the bylaws require membership permission be given for such increase. Because the 1976 budget does not increase the members' operating payment by as much as 10%, this provision is not operative.

Charles Schwan

Thoughts After A Mugging

An Open Letter to the Mugger-Purse-Snatcher in the Co-op Parking Lot, Dec. 3:

As you darted past me from behind and looped your arm into the shoulder-bag strap on my right arm, I'm sure your only thought was, "If I make it, I'll have perhaps an extra five or ten dollars for Christmas shopping. If I don't make it, I'll get nothing and that's all there is to it." But that's not how the story ended.

The natural urge to resist a tug-foiled your purse-snatching attempt, so you got nothing — but I wasn't quite so lucky. I got much more. In your get-away effort you threw me to the ground, rendering my right arm immobile. This resulted in surgery to re-attach the elbow bone, (broken in 3 places) by mechanical means.

I am home from the hospital now, but I will be helpless in a cast for 6-9 weeks, followed by a period of therapy to return, hopefully, some usefulness to my arm. I may never regain the full use of my right arm.

The pain, the discomfort, the costs, the inconveniences to my family, my job, myself — what sense does any of it make? Surely the contents of my bag — or anyone else's — cannot be worth the sacrifices you have forced upon me.

As long as a woman has to be fearful of shopping at a store one block from her house at 5:30 in the evening, in a community like Greenbelt, I feel sadness for all my fellow-men. I'm particularly ashamed because I feel sure you are a Greenbelter too, judging by your escape route.

In closing, I urge the two boys who attempted to apprehend you, to report their results to the police. Complete citizen cooperation is vital if we are to ever arrest this kind of craziness.

Name Withheld

High Point Alumni

The Class of 1966 will be holding its tenth reunion soon. For information concerning it, contact Kay Brooke - 345-1329.

PLANT SALE AT CENTER

The Mishkan Torah Sisterhood will hold a plant sale on the Center Mall on Thurs., Dec. 18 starting at 10 a.m.

No Hook-up Yet For Greenbriar

A Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) staff report stated that the abandonment of the interim Greenbriar sewage treatment plant is not feasible at this time. A request had been filed by developer Alan Kay for immediate connection to the permanent regional Western Branch treatment plant without waiting for its expansion to 15 million gallons a day (mgd) in July 1976.

It was expected that the Greenbriar project would be allowed to hook into the public plant since the introduction of chemical treatment at the Western Branch plant had increased the plant's capacity from 5 mgd. to 8 mgd. Additionally, of the 14 projects under consideration, the Greenbriar project was the only one ready for immediate connection.

A spokesman for WSSC said that the recommended denial at this time was based on the staff's re-evaluation of existing flows at Western Branch which indicated that there was no excess capacity available.

The city of Greenbelt and Prince Georges Environment Coalition have urged immediate connection of the plant to the public system.

Recreation Review

Teen Club

The following holiday events have been planned by the Teen Club: Sat., Dec. 20, 8-11 pm, "Menagerie" will appear at the Ridge Road Center for a dance. On Mon., Dec. 29, the Teen Club will sponsor its first ski trip of the season to Blue Knob. All Greenbelt teens and their guests are invited. Registration is on a first come, first served basis, so hurry. Deadline is Monday, December 22. For further information regarding club activities, contact Mike Lundregan, Recreation Department 474-6878.

Festival of Lights

Plan now to enjoy the second week of festivities. On Monday, December 15 the evergreen tree between the Municipal Building and the Bank, will be decorated and the city's wreath will be hung on the front of the Municipal Building. So that the city will save on energy, Carol Collins, Arts and Crafts instructor for the Recreation Department, will use aluminum foil and natural decorations. All citizens are encouraged to drop by the Municipal Building to enjoy the holiday tree.

Caroling - are you interested in singing? All individuals and groups are urged to come caroling with us Saturday evening, Dec. 20. Meet at the Youth Center at 7:30 pm and stroll through the city, serenading the residents with a variety of Christmas carols. Afterwards, donuts and hot chocolate or coffee will be served at the Youth Center.

Boys' and Girls' Club Uniform Turn-in

All football and soccer uniforms should be turned in on Mon., Dec. 18 from 7-10 pm at the Youth Center. Basketball uniforms will not be issued to any person holding other uniforms.

Open Gyms

Following is a schedule of other open gyms in the area:
Berwyn Heights Community Gym - Sundays, 2-10 pm
Greenbelt Junior High School - Sundays, 2-6 pm
Parkdale Senior High School - Sundays, 1-6 pm
Youth Center and Springhill Lake Gym Schedules
Open Gym - Fr., Sun., 7-11 pm;
Men's Gym - Mon., 7-11 pm; Women's Gym - Wed., 7-11 pm; Teen Gym - Sat., 7-11 pm; Boys' & Girls' Club - Mon., Wed., Fri. 6-7 pm, Tues., Thurs., 5-9 pm, Sat., 9-12 noon.

"Cinderella" At Beltway

The popular fairy tale "Cinderella" will be presented free on Sat., Dec. 13, at 1 p.m. at the Beltway Plaza Mall. This special holiday show is sponsored by the Adelphians and the Beltway Plaza Merchants Association.

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Best wishes for a happy birthday to David Moran, 117 Hedgewood, who was ten years old on Dec. 4. A party celebrating the big event was held on Dec. 6.

Hope that Norman Weyel, 2-F Plateau, is feeling better after recent surgery at Prince Georges Hospital.

Aimee Michelle Mortimer says hello to all her new Greenbelt neighbors. She arrived at 4:52 a.m., Sunday morning, November 23, at the Washington Adventist Hospital, and promptly moved in with her proud parents, Michael and Sheila, at 56-F Crescent Road, Greenbelt.

Lisa Younger, 105 Lynbrook Ct., was recently crowned homecoming queen at Parkdale High School's homecoming activities. Greenbelt's Gretchen Crabill was a member of her court.

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CAMPUS CENTER for Early Learning located in the Greenbriar Condominium Complex (7600 Hanover Parkway) is now enrolling. Half-day and full-day programs available, children ages 2½ - 5. An exciting educational experience presented by certified teachers in Early Childhood Education. For more information call 345-8830.

FOR SALE - Stereo with cassette recorder. Call after 7. 474-7163.

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WSSC RATE HIKE

According to reports in the Prince Georges Sentinel, testimony presented at a public hearing on Nov. 12 has not changed the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's determination to seek approval of a 30-percent hike in water and sewer rates. The hike would boost the current combined water and sewage disposal rate from \$1.23 per 1,000 gallons to \$1.60. Last July, the commission increased the rates from \$1.06 to \$1.23.

The proposed rate increase now goes to the Prince Georges and Montgomery county councils for their recommendations. Final authority on the increase rests with the WSSC, according to Floyd D. Peterson, chairman. Ordinarily, the two counties must approve WSSC budgetary changes, but Peterson considers this proposed increase a non-budgetary change because funds would be used for projects and operations already approved by the councils. The commission hopes to put the rate increase into effect on Jan. 1.

Police Blotter

A female resident of Crescent Road was knocked to the ground in an attempted pocket book snatch on Centerway. The assailant fled without obtaining the victim's purse, but the citizen received a broken arm and underwent surgery. A lookout has been placed.

A total of twenty-four juvenile complaints were investigated during the week. Additionally, three incidents of child abuse were investigated.

Officers Duprat and Bishop, checking suspicious subjects late at night in Springhill Lake, found the two adults in possession of concealed handguns and narcotics. Both were charged and incarcerated.

Investigation into a sudden death on Parkway Road of a young male adult, originally thought to be of suspicious causes, was closed when autopsy results indicated death was due to natural causes.

Officers making their rounds found a total of five commercial buildings had been left with open doors by employees. The interiors were checked and responsible persons were contacted to secure the areas.

Twenty-two larceny cases were investigated during the week, exclusive of auto larceny and breaking and enterings.

Det. Cpl. Robert Smith has submitted his resignation effective December 22 to accept a position with the United States Secret Service. He will commence training as an agent for that federal enforcement agency.

A male resident of Springhill Lake was charged by Officer Duprat with destruction of personal property, following an investigation which revealed the young adult had poured paint on the auto of a local merchant. Eight other vandalism cases which took place during the week are still under investigation.

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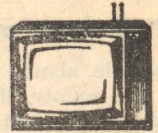
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HOUSING from page 1

ject, if desirable, should be underwritten by the county, the Federal Government, or a private developer, but not by such a small entity as the city of Greenbelt which is in no position to take the risk. "If you want to help the elderly" he told council, "you should reduce taxes."

In reply, councilmen Richard Castaldi and White stated their preference for city sponsorship so that the city would have control over where the project goes, the type of construction, and how it is operated.

Charles Wells, in a ringing speech which received applause, said that the need for this type of project has long been apparent to anyone who has studied the plight of the elderly. "The elderly who would chiefly benefit from this project are not here, because they are housebound and handicapped. We have to speak on their behalf."

The main problem of aging individuals, he said, is to maintain their independence and this project with its physical features (combined dining room facilities) will greatly help to meet the problem. "The elderly," Wells continued, "is always somebody else — let us project ourselves 20-30 years from now when losing a spouse, recovering from illness, trying to live on retirement income — remember we are all going to grow old." He was backed by Miriam Cornelius who observed that the elderly have many needs besides financial ones.

Questions Answered

James Cassels attempted to answer many of the questions posed. He said that the rate of interest at the present time on State loans for elderly housing is 7½%. He said that the project would not cost the city anything, because any city land or city expenses incurred could be charged against the project which will be aided through Federal rent subsidies. He noted that these Federal subsidies would be guaranteed for 40 years by contract. He also stated that the city would receive payments from the project in lieu of taxes.

Don Volk of APB expressed some concern that the resolution limited the choice of sites to Ridge Road Center and Hamilton Road (opposite GHI offices). He said the APB preferred a site closer to the center.

The city's Park and Recreation Advisory Board in Report #12 informed the council of its approval of the elderly housing project but felt concern over the possible use of city parkland. It wanted to see provisions for replacing any city parkland used or any recreation facilities that are lost as the result of the project.

DAV Benefit Drawings

Chapter #25 of the Disabled American Veterans held its second annual benefit drive on Sat., Dec. 6. The drawings took place in front of the High's store at Greenbelt Center, with the permission of Leo Gerton. Drawing for the prizes were Councilman Richard Castaldi, City Clerk Gudrun Mills and Paula A. Smith, wife of the Honorable Edgar Smith. The drive was a success and all funds obtained will go to needy veterans. Prize winners were: first prize, Robert Pfost; second, Jack Weiner; and third, Guy Miller, Sr.

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CHEVY CHASE all over the area trying to find all the things you need. You won't have to CHASE around at all if you will let us show you this lovely 3 bedroom Greenbelt masonry townhouse just a two-minute walk from the center. Owner has purchased a new home and says sell this place quickly. Many extras including washer, dryer, A/C's and carpeting. Priced to sell right away at \$22,000 totals.

LANGLEY, Why don't you PARK your car over here at Kash, Realtor and let us show you this choice of two real nice one bedroom co-op apartments. Priced at \$11,900 and \$12,250, these lovely units will meet every requirement of a young couple or retired people.

You'll be resting on your LAURELS later, if you CENTER your attention on this real nice frame Cape Cod in very convenient Beltsville, 3 bedrooms, many extras, large lot. Priced to sell at only \$37,900 on VA or conventional terms. VA appraised.

WOODMOOR space please you? You could search the 4 CORNERS of the area and not find a lovelier home than this like-new 4 bedroom Split-foyer in Lewisdale, near everything. This beautiful home features all appliances, cent A/C, carpeting and an in-ground pool. Don't miss the chance. Call for more details.

You can SEABROOK and WOODS from the window of this gorgeous, like new 2 bedroom Greenbriar condo-apartment. Many extras including washer, dryer and carpeting. Only \$33,900, including a large loan that may be assumed. You should not miss this opportunity.

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